

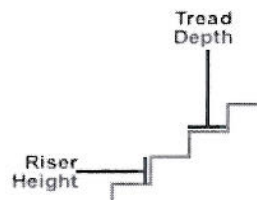
## VII. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

### A. Requirements for Licensure: (MS Code §43-15-107 – See Appendix P)

1. The agency shall be located in a residential zoning area that is accepting of the facility and its mission and purpose.
2. The agency shall submit a written plan of action to the Department's Licensure Unit for approval prior to start-up operation and/or commencing any new construction work.
3. All agencies shall obtain approval of local fire, safety, building construction and zoning authorities. The agency shall provide documentation as follows:
  - a. Written records of inspections from the appropriate local fire, health, and safety authorities annually.
  - b. Documentation that appropriate action was taken to correct deficiencies cited by the above entities.
  - c. Evidence and documentation of a routine pest control service.
4. The following inspection(s) shall be performed annually by the Health Department in order for the facility to comply with licensing standards:
  - a. Residential child caring agencies that have a cottage-style living arrangement with a family-type kitchen in each cottage or individual group home shall be inspected using only the Mississippi Department of Health Inspection for Residential Facility (Form 750) Inspection Report. The entire form shall be completed by the Health Department Environmentalist.
  - b. Residential child caring agencies which have a separate central dining area for all residents and/or have fifteen (15) or more persons eating together shall have both a Food Service Permit Inspection Report and a Residential Facility Inspection Report (Form 750).
  - c. If a Form 750 is submitted with negative responses or "no" checked, the facility shall also submit a Plan for Corrective Action within five (5) business days of receiving notification.
5. The agency shall have and follow written procedures for fire/natural disasters, including tornadoes, hurricanes, and floods which specify frequency of drills, evacuation plans and responsibilities of staff. The drills shall include an actual evacuation of children to safe areas. A posted record of the drills shall be kept as outlined below.
  - a. Include a schedule for fire drills and applicable disaster drills:
    - i. Staff and children of appropriate age and functioning capacity shall be trained in the correct reporting of fires and how to extinguish small fires.
    - ii. Fire drills shall be conducted at least monthly in a residential program and must be rotated among the following time frames.

7:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.  
3:00 P.M. to 11:00 P.M.  
11:00 P.M. to 7:00 A.M.

- iii. Disaster drills shall be conducted at least annually.
  - iv. Fire extinguishing equipment and alarms/smoke detectors shall be inspected annually by the Fire Marshall and be located throughout the facility in all resident areas and where conditions warrant (i.e., flammable storage areas) and be mounted in a secure manner.
- b. Specify emergency escape procedures
  - c. Post escape routes at highly visible locations throughout the facility that clearly indicate your location and the nearest exit(s)
6. Written reports must follow each fire drill which must include at a minimum:
- a. Date of drill
  - b. Time required for completion of drill
  - c. Signature of staff member completing the report.
7. Facilities shall be handicapped accessible.
8. The width of doorways, when the door is in the full open position, must not be fewer than thirty-two (32) inches wide.
9. Doors opening onto stairs must have a landing at a minimum of the width of the door.
10. Minimum head room on stairs to clear all obstruction must be six feet and eight inches tall (6' 8").
11. Width of stairs must not be less than thirty-two (32) inches.
- a. Minimum tread depth of each step of the stairs must not be less than nine (9) inches.
  - b. Maximum height of risers in each step must not exceed eight (8) inches.



12. Guards and handrails must be provided on both sides of all stairs and ramps rising more than thirty (30) inches above the floor or grade and must meet the following:
- a. Guards and handrails must continue for the full length of the ramp or stairs.
  - b. Handrails must provide at least two (2) inches between the inner side of the rail and

support wall.

- c. Handrails must not be more than thirty-four (34) inches above the step or ramp nor less than thirty (30) inches.

13. Ramps, platforms and landings associated with the guards and handrails must be:

- a. Designed for not less than one hundred (100) pounds per square foot
- b. Have a slip-resistant surface

14. Locks, if provided on exit doors, shall not require the use of a key for operation from inside the building.

15. No stove or heater shall block an escape route.

16. A back splash shall be installed behind any stove.

17. Exits shall be accessible at all times.